

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

Please AMEND claims 12, 13, 20, 21, 27, and 28, CANCEL claims 14, 18, 19, 22-26, and 29-41 without prejudice or disclaimer, and ADD claims 35-37 in accordance with the following:

1-11. (CANCELLED)

12. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A lithium battery comprising:

a generation element which generates electrical power;

a can ~~which to~~ houses the generation element, ~~the can including and which has a first surface and a second surfaces,~~ the first surface ~~comprising including~~ a first terminal electrically connected to the generation element and the second surface ~~comprising including~~ a second terminal electrically connected to the generation element; ~~and~~

an output lead, made of a first material or an alloy thereof, electrically coupled to the second terminal;

a safety device electrically coupled to the output lead to interrupt current to the output lead with an increase in a resistance thereof upon a temperature and/or a voltage increase in the can; and

a first lead to electrically couple the first terminal to the safety device~~a lead unit, which electrically connects the first terminal and the second terminal through a safety device, disposed at an exterior of the lithium battery, and having a lead plate with one end disposed at the first surface and another end disposed at the safety device, the first lead having a layer of the first material or an alloy thereof and a cladding layer made of a second material or an alloy thereof.~~

13. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The lithium battery of claim 12, wherein the can comprises a material that is different from the first materials of the ~~and the lead plate comprises the first material~~first lead.

14. (CANCELLED)

15. (ORIGINAL) The lithium battery of claim 12, further comprising a safety vent which exhausts internal gas when pressure inside the can increases past a predetermined level, the safety vent being at the second surface of the can.

16. (ORIGINAL) The lithium battery of claim 15, wherein:  
the can further comprises an opening through which the generation element is introduced into the can, and a cap which closes the opening, and  
the safety vent is disposed on the cap.

17. (ORIGINAL) The lithium battery of claim 12, wherein the safety device interrupts current flowing therethrough when a voltage of the battery sharply increases.

18-19. (CANCELLED)

20. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The lithium battery of claim 19, wherein the ~~lead-unit~~first lead further comprises a third lead plate electrically connecting the protecting circuit and the second terminal.

21. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The lithium battery of claim 13, wherein, where the can comprises a first material, the ~~one end of the lead plate~~first lead comprises the first material, and the ~~other end of the~~second lead plate comprises a second material other than the first material.

22-26. (CANCELLED)

27. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The lithium battery of claim 12, wherein the ~~lead plate~~first lead is attached to the first surface using ultrasonic welding.

28. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The lithium battery of claim 12, wherein the ~~lead plate~~first lead is attached to the first surface using resistance welding.

29-34. (CANCELLED)

35. (NEW) The lithium battery of claim 12, wherein the first material comprises nickel and the second material comprises aluminum.

36. (NEW) The lithium battery of claim 12, further comprising a protection circuit electrically coupled in series between the second terminal and the output lead to prevent over-charging and/or over-discharging.

37. (NEW) The lithium battery of claim 35, wherein the protection circuit, the leads, and the safety device are disposed exterior to the can.